

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** Claims 1-3 and **amend** Claims 15, 18-20, 24, 27 and 29-30 as indicated:

Claims 1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method comprising:

starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate ~~authorizing the loading of the program regardless of a current operating environment of the client computer~~ being only an identifier of a corresponding full license certificate that is remotely stored on a server computer; and

upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to ~~[[a]]~~ the full license certificate stored on ~~[[a]]~~ the server computer.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the local license certificate is based on an ~~[[operating]]~~ execution environment of the client computer.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~[[operating]]~~ execution environment is based on ~~[[the computer's hardware]]~~ a maximum authorized power of a Central Processing Unit (CPU) in the client computer.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim [[18]], wherein the ~~operating environment is based on software that is loaded on the computer program~~ is allowed to continue to execute when the CPU is operating up to a pre-determined percentage over the maximum authorized power.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the program is an operating system.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the program is a network stack.

24. (currently amended) A system comprising:

means for starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

means for, before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate ~~authorizing the loading of the program regardless of a current operating environment of the client computer~~ being only an identifier of a corresponding full license certificate that is remotely stored on a server computer; and

means for, upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to [[a]] the full license certificate stored on [[a]] the server computer.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.

27. (currently amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the local license certificate is based on an ~~[[operating]]~~ execution environment of the computer.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.

29. (currently amended) A computer program product that is in a computer usable medium, the computer program product comprising:

program code for starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

program code for, before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate ~~authorizing the loading of the program regardless of a current operating environment of the client computer~~ being only an identifier of a corresponding full license certificate that is remotely stored on a server computer; and

program code for, upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to ~~[[a]]~~ the full license certificate stored on ~~[[a]]~~ the server computer.

30. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the local license certificate is based on an operating environment of the client computer.

31. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.